

Prayers for the World

- **Mennonites in Burkina Faso (EEMBF) ask us to pray for the coming General Assembly of their national conference** January 12th and 13th. They are thankful for the security level in the capital city of Ouagadougou and southwestern area of Burkina Faso. Other areas are still experiencing violence and prayers for students traveling from their homes after Christmas holidays are an urgent concern.

- **Mennonite congregations in Myanmar ask for prayers for 65 Mennonite families returning to their homes-** Bible Missionary Church – Mennonite congregations in Myanmar started the New Year with foot washing services. They ask for prayers for 65 Mennonite families returning to their homes near the Indian border after spending months in neighbouring areas and further into the mountains. Some peace has been restored to the area but economic hardships are plaguing the region as fighting has meant crops could not be planted or harvested.

- **Can you join the cause to preserve sacred land in 2024?** The Turtle Island Solidarity Network of Community Peacemaker Teams and The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery are calling for a far reaching and international voice of conscience and support to save Oak Flat, an Apache sacred site being threatened by copper mining interests. Please consider signing here <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/i-support-oak-flat>

From the Pastor

Happy New Year!

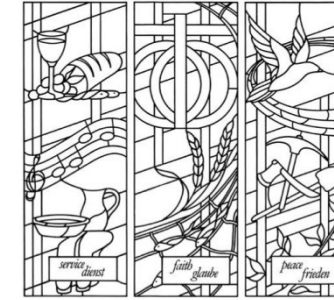
I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays - spending time with family, playing games, watching the World Juniors, napping, eating good food, and perhaps even enjoying the mild weather! One of my highlights was our church's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. That evening was magical (the sacred kind) and filled with light and love and wonder.

Today we celebrate Epiphany in our Sunday morning worship service, and next weekend Melanie Neufeld from MCManitoba will be our guest speaker. Melanie is the director of Mission & Engagement for our area conference. Then beginning on January 21 we'll resume our 'Stories that Shape Us' series that we started last fall – if you'll recall we left off just before Memorial Sunday with the birth of Moses! We will spend a month or so with Moses in Egypt, and make it into the Wilderness right in time for Lent. (There's your winter worship schedule at a glance.)

This week we pray for Sterling Mennonite Fellowship. May they be filled with God's light and love in this new year.

Best wishes to you all for 2024!!

Erika



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.1

January 7, 2024

"How will we know...what we know?"

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Hymn VT 10 Here in this Place

Candle Lighting

Leader: Together we carry the light.

People: This is what we know.

Leader: We know that the Messiah, the light of the world, has come. We know that we are bearers of this light, sharing it in moments and places of darkness.

Hymn VT 273 Arise your light is come

Call to worship - taken from Isaiah 60:1-6

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

People: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you.

High voices: You shall see and be radiant;

Low voices: your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm

Email address: erika.altonamennonite@gmail.com

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952 Church: 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 am to Noon

Email address: altonamennonite@gmail.com

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Moderator: Loren Brul: C: 204-995-5347

Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Leader: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

People: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine.

(pause)

All: Together we carry the light

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT 762 This little light of mine

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

Joseph Monologues – Bitter Nightmares

(written and performed by Arlyn Friesen Epp)

Sermon Erika Enns Rodine

Offering

Hymn VT 275 O beautiful star of Bethlehem

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Hymn VT 549 Be Thou my Vision

Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen

Musicians: Loren Braul, Sylvia Klassen

Technician: Kevin Neufeld

Birthdays: January 10 – Karen Martens

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Jan. 14 – 11:00 am Worship Service, guest Melanie Neufeld from MCM Mission & Engagement

Worship Leader: Erika Enns Rodine *Musicians:* Marilyn Houser Hamm, Nancy Ratzlaff *Technician:* Nathan Loewen

Jan. 17 – AGM reports due

Jan. 21 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Jan. 28 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Feb. 4 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Feb. 11 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
after church/lunch AMC's AGM

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee** sign up sheet is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!

- Our AGM is coming up in February. There are two openings for the Worship Committee and two for the Formation Committee. Speak to Loren Braul if you are willing to be part of the leadership committees at AMC.

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Youth For Christ is in need of more baking for their breakfast program at Miller.** They bring around 100 - 140 baked items every Wednesday and their stock is running low. If this is something that interests you please let them know or you can simply stop in. Someone is typically in the office between 9:00 - 4:00 during the week, but feel free to call or email to ensure someone is in. Muffins, cookies and loaves such as banana bread go over really well. Thank you! You can email Kendra at kendra.fehr@yfc.ca.

- Halbstadt Church is looking for a Part-Time Pastor

Mission statement: To Love our neighbor, revealing Christ to them in word and action, together becoming unified servants who worship God through Jesus Christ."

An independent, Evangelical, Bible-based country church with 20 to 30 attendees, is prayerfully seeking a part-time Pastor. We are asking God for a pastor who is strong in pulpit ministry, with emphasis on Bible preaching and encouraging the congregation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. The successful candidate will have a passion for God's work through the local church, and a desire to fulfill the New Testament requirements for office as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Please direct resumes and/or inquiries to Tony Knutt at knutt.ton@gmail.com. Compensation will be determined by experience and education. Website – halbstadtchurch.com

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCM Mondays start on Jan 8, 7:30pm on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. We're starting off with: "Pastors, do we need them?" www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays for more info and the Zoom link.

- **Happy New Year from Camp Koinonia!** We would love to thank each and every one of you who supported Camp Koinonia over this past year through financial gifts, attendance, or prayer. Please consider this beautiful facility for your next event or family gathering. We are also excited to

announce that you can now donate directly to Camp Koinonia through the Mennonite Church Manitoba website.

- **MCM Winter Retreats.** New MCM Winter Retreat for ages 22-30. Camp Assiniboia Feb 2-4., MCM Youth (All Ages) Winter Retreat . CA Feb 23-25. visit MCM website or see poster.

- **The 2024 John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series** begins Thursday, January 18. Titled "Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine," the two presentations will feature Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine. Visit cmu.ca/friesenlectures for more information.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- We pray for June Schwartz. She is at home recovering from hip surgery. Check in with her.

- We continue to pray for the Mullet family in Thompson. Jon and Abigail are on the mend.

- We pray for Anne Kehler, Dan's mom as she recovers from a broken hip. She is at Eastview Place.

- Pray for Erika Enns Rodine, Josh, Freya and Sigga.

- We pray for the seniors in our congregation:

Marianne Braun who is at Eastview; Jean Tarnick who is in her suite at Gardens on Tenth Manor, Bill Loewen at The Gardens, Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, Marlene Plett at Katherina Courts and others who are not named.

- We pray for those who are grieving.

- We pray for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle.

- We pray for the family care-givers.

- We pray for those in transition/who have moved to a new home.

Prayers for Our Community

- Pray for all teachers and students as they learn and teach.

- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.

- Pray for the church leaders at all levels of our conference.

- Pray for MCI.